NEW YORK HERALD

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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WOOD'S MUSEUM,
Broadway, corner Thirtieth street.—JACK ROBINSON'S MONKEY, at 2 P. M.; closes at 4:30 P. M. ACROSS THE CONTINENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. O. D. Byron.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,
Fifth avenue and Twenty-third street.—HUMPTY DUMPTY ABROAD, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. G. L. Fox.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE,
Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—SARATOGA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Harkins, Miss Fanny Davenport.

WALLACK'S THEATRE,
Broadway and Thirteenth street.—MONEY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11:20 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack, Miss Jeffreys Lewis.

BOOTH'S THEATRE,
Sixth avenue and Twenty-third street.—LA FEMME DE FEU, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mrs. J. B. Booth.

OLYMPIC THEATRE,
Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker streets.—VAUDEVILLE and NOVELTY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE,
opposite City Hall, Brooklyn.—KIT; OR, THE ARKANSAS TRAVELLER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. F. S. Chanfrau.

BOWERY THEATRE,
Bowery.—SCOUTS OF THE SIERRAS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mr. I. Frank Payne.

GERMANIA THEATRE,
Fourteenth street.—LUMPACIVAGABUNDUS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11:15 P. M.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE,
No. 585 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

NIBLO'S GARDEN,
Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—ROMEO JAFFIER JENKINS, at 8 P. M.; THE BELLES OF THE KITCHEN, at 9 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Vokes Family, Mr. Leffingwell.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
Fourteenth street, corner of Irving place.—KELLOGG ENGLISH OPERA—MARTHA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Miss Kellogg, Mr. Habiemann.

THEATRE COMIQUE,
514 Broadway.—KERN'S BENEFIT. VARIETY, at 2 P. M.; closes at 4:30 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE,
No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE,
Twenty-third street, corner of Sixth avenue.—CINDERELLA IN BLACK, NEGRO MINSTRELSY, &c., at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL,
Sixteenth street.—THE PICCANINNIES, at 3 P. M. and at 8 P. M.

BAIN HALL,
Great Jones street and Lafayette place.—PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 9 P. M.

COLOSSEUM,
Broadway, corner of Thirty-fifth street.—CYCLORAMA OF LONDON BY DAY, at 12 M.; closes at 4 P. M. PARIS BY NIGHT, at 7 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, January 22, 1874.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

ABANDONED—The proposed workingmen's demonstration to-day. Although the artful and unscrupulous Communists are zealously at work to cajole and inveigle honest workingmen into their mischievous schemes, the latter as a mass are too sensible to be seduced by their allurements.

The City Poor and the Agitators—City Charities.

Incendiary speeches are freely made at public gatherings in this city, where the unemployed poor are excited by the agitators of dangerous theories. Agitation of this sort is effective in proportion as the field is prepared for it by real and widespread distress among the people. So long as the intelligent mechanics and industrious laborers of every sort in our midst have regular occupation and duly receive earnings that will support their families with more or less comfort they pay little attention to theorists and spouters. They have paid habitually far less attention to spouters than that class of creatures has received in other great cities. Workingmen's clubs for the purpose of hearing a weekly dribble of incendiary balderdash such as are common in all the great cities of France, and are well known in Germany, have never flourished here, though some of our imported jail birds brought the seed. Neither do the more practical discussions over beer and pipes that are common at many great industrial centres in England find this soil congenial. And the reasons are obvious. Our workingman has always a few superfluous coppers, and he buys a paper. He is well nigh the only daily laborer in the world to whom a few coppers every day do not make all the difference between bread and no bread. He buys a paper and reads it, and does not need to go to the gathering of the workingmen for the news, and does not care to go for anything else, as, thanks to his paper, he is generally sufficiently well informed to be intolerant of arrant nonsense, which is what the spouters usually deal in. So the club, if it is started, dies from want of attendance, and the workingman thrives in the cultivation of a contented mind and industrious habits. But the loss of employment, the failure of the little stream of ready money that kept up the regular supply of the homely board around which the comely wife and bright-faced little ones gathered, may change all that. For the loss of the sense of his personal independence, the sentiment of wounded pride that goes with the consciousness of inability to perform the simplest human duty of getting bread for his little ones, the actual sight of the little ones in want or begging, the feeling of hunger itself—all this shakes the most sturdy and upright spirit. And in the condition of mind that comes with such distress, in the loss of *morale* that is the first result of misery, he is ready to listen to any voice that pretends to point a way out of his troubles. Then it is that the agitator becomes truly dangerous; for the workingman is ready to believe then with any theorist who denounces the restraints that keep the baker's window sacred from the hungry passer-by; he has returned for the time to the primitive condition and is disposed to recognize only force as a reason why he should respect the rights of those who have plenty when he has nothing. He is ready for any wild theory or any wild act; for no event can aggravate his condition.

What are the provisions made in this city to meet such possibilities in the condition of the workingman as may throw him into the camp of the enemies of society? For with a large number of unemployed workingmen in our midst, with the worst of the winter coming and with "citizen" orators who urge that a great city may be fired with salutary results and that they are fools who are penniless in the midst of plunder, it should be publicly known what is the condition of the people with regard to public assistance and what are the exact resources of our charities and benevolent associations and various organizations that gather money all the year round to dispense to the necessitous. Half the population of this city lives in rather less than one-third of the houses, and these are the so-called "tenements;" but there is a considerable vagrant population without any domicile whatever. One hundred and forty thousand persons having no homes were lodged in the station houses during the year 1873; twenty-two thousand persons were granted outdoor relief by the Board of Public Charities; our asylums, hospitals and prisons are regularly occupied by about eight thousand persons, and it is estimated that ten thousand children wander in the streets. But the return of persons relieved is a very inadequate indication of the number in want. It was late in the year before the financial trouble was seriously felt by the people here, and even when the pressure came it did not immediately throw the unemployed and their families upon public assistance. Many had little stores laid by and many were kept up awhile by relatives more fortunate than themselves. Thus the statistics of charity bestowed for 1873 represent perhaps not much more than the regular resident wretchedness. For the thirty thousand relieved in and out of the asylums it would be safe to count the number much nearer to a hundred thousand, while of those who get food in one way or another during the day and appeal for lodging at the stations the number constantly exceeds very greatly the capacity of that branch of the public service.

Our statistics given in an article in another column show that two and a half million dollars were collected in the name of the poor in the past year by the various charitable societies of this city. We give a list of forty-two of these societies, with the sums set opposite the names of each that they had gathered from the charitable public or had received by appropriations from the city or State, and we give an estimate for the sums of the large number of societies an account of whose activities it was impossible to obtain. It will be seen that some of the greatest of our charities, like the endowed hospitals or hospitals supported by voluntary contributions, are not in the list; but we have endeavored to make it more complete in regard to those charities that aid the needy who are not sick. We have omitted also the greater number of such mutual aid societies as the Freemasons and Odd Fellows, whose resources are, perhaps, severely taxed at this moment. Not less than one hundred organizations, then, including the forty in our first list and the fifty-eight reported as having received appropriated money from the Board of Apportionment and Estimate, are engaged at this moment in gathering money from the public to be used in succoring the distressed poor of this city. In charity thus dispensed there is, of course, some leakage. Indeed, that has generally been found to be the defect of this method of relieving the poor. Great abuses grow up. At the time of the breaking out of the French Revolution one-third of the wealth of France was held in endowments nominally made for charitable purposes, yet the people were in a state of indescribable misery, and the custodians of that enormous charity fund lived in pampered splendor. That is the extreme result of the system. In the case of our hundred city societies we note only that the subtraction from the fund that must be made for keeping up a hundred different organizations, paying rents and salaries, would make a considerable reduction of the aggregate; but we believe that is the whole reduction. We have no doubt that the money collected is honestly and judiciously spent, and we have especial faith in those societies that are in the hands of women, for the peculating instincts of the man of the period might not respect even the pittance of the poor; but we cannot believe that women would divert a cent of such money.

It will be seen that the charitable machinery in actual operation among us is extensive and effective; for the collection and disbursement of two millions and a half of dollars in a year, only a few months of which involved extraordinary demands, indicates not only that the people give freely, but that they are urged actively. Every one of these societies, with such reasons for its appeal as are now patent everywhere, can do twice as much as it ever did before, and it ought to be understood by the managers that their organizations are now on trial before public opinion; that this is the period for their most earnest activity; that it is according to what they may do now that people will judge whether in giving to them one really helps the poor, or whether the organizations are, in fact, a means of robbing the poor by diverting to the support of useless societies with pretty names that which is intended to get bread for the hungry.

Union of the Romanoffs and Guelphs.

Elsewhere we publish this morning a highly interesting sketch of the life and character of the Duke of Edinburgh and an account of the graces and accomplishments of the Princess Maria Alexandrovna, the favorite child of the Czar of Russia. The prospective union of these youthful representatives of the best imperial stock in Europe has elicited the kindly criticism of all nationalities, as calculated to secure the happiness of the betrothed themselves and to establish a cordial feeling between two sovereign houses who are struggling for empire in the Eastern world. Considered with reference to its political bearing we must be cautious in assuming that the grave question of the rivalries of England and Russia will be forever settled by this marriage. The destinies of peoples and the fate of nations are no longer disposed of by a sentimental contract, however beautiful it may be as an illustration of personal sympathy and domestic happiness. All will remember that a marriage between two Anglo-Saxon peoples professing the same religion and having many great aspirations in common—the union of the Crown Prince of Prussia with the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria—did not subsequently, during the German war, prevent a feeling of intense bitterness from becoming general in either country. We sincerely hope that the present alliance will not be barren of important political results, as we feel assured that it will be an auspicious event in the life of the lovely Princess who has consented to accept her sailor lover on other grounds than regal prestige. Marriages like this one are desirable because they are conspicuous illustrations of the sanctity of an institution now assailed by sallow-faced charlatans who trade in "progressive ideas." It proves that a deep vein of poetic feeling is not incompatible with the loftiest station, and the lot of a Prince is not so miserable after all. The Duke of Edinburgh is of that profession having great fascinations for the susceptible and emotional woman. He was all but born on the sea, and his life from the earliest days has been spent in the rollicking career of a British naval officer, in which character he has neglected few of the precepts taught by Marryatt, if he has sometimes indulged in those special amusements which make up the life of the officer ashore. In order that the American public may be supplied with an account of the interesting ceremonies we have arranged to have a special account of the marriage ceremonies by cable from St. Petersburg, written by the graphic pen of Mr. Edmund Yates, the distinguished English novelist.

THE SALARY REPEAL BILL IS A LAW OF THE LAND, having been signed by the President yesterday. The President is not touched, because constitutionally he could not be in his increased pay, which now makes his compensation fifty thousand a year; and for the same reason the increased pay to the Supreme Court judges is untouched; but the members of the Cabinet and of the two houses of Congress and the clerks of Congress and of the Executive departments are put down to their pay as it was before the passage of the obnoxious increased salary and back pay bill. This is done to appease an outraged public opinion; but if the "back pay grab" was an outrage the repeal of the increased salaries is in many respects a contemptible act of atonement.

A CRASH IN THE NINETY-SECOND STREET TUNNEL.—Our local news columns contain a report of what might have been a fearful disaster in the Ninety-second street tunnel. It appears that as the twenty minutes past nine A. M. train yesterday from Morrisania passed into the tunnel it was signalled to stop, which was done as quickly as possible amid pitchy darkness. After coming to a dead halt the train again commenced moving slowly, when the New Haven express came along at full speed in its rear, the locomotive striking the end car of the Morrisania train and smashing it completely. Fortunately only two or three passengers were injured, one, we regret to say, quite severely; but it is almost a miracle that a terrible loss of life did not ensue. It is evident that the arrangements to prevent accidents of this kind in this tunnel are not what they should be. Something more must be done, or we fear we shall be obliged to chronicle at no distant day a fearful catastrophe in this dark and dismal railroad thoroughfare.

President Grant's New Departure a Jacksonian Policy—Its General Acceptability.

General Grant gives notice to Congress and the country that he will no longer use the strong arm of federal authority to promote a narrow and pernicious policy in the Southern States. If he persists in carrying out his new views, as we cannot doubt he will, the result will be to give him a high place in the list of American Presidents. Few soldiers ever gained a more brilliant record for achievements in arms. General Grant has only to add to his military honors the glory of wise civil administration to retire from the Presidency with a fame equal to that of Washington, and this he can achieve by carrying out his determination to do justice to the South and lop away the dead weight carried by the republican party.

In pursuing his expressed determination of letting the States care for themselves General Grant must expect opposition. The more radical part of the press has already begun to denounce even the refusal to do injustice to a sovereign State. In Congress, and especially in the Senate, opposition is slowly organizing for resistance. The refusal to confirm the nomination of Caleb Cushing to be Chief Justice was the first indication of a probable rupture between the leaders of the dominant party in the Senate and the President. But for the finding of the unfortunate letter of introduction to Jeff Davis the rupture might have occurred before now. The nomination of Waite instead, while it seems to indicate that the President is ready for any breach that may occur, will at least not have a tendency to heal the estrangement that has already taken place. Considered only on grounds of partisan acceptability Waite's nomination is not acceptable, and his confirmation even will not make perfect accord between the Senate and the Executive. The refusal to confirm this latest nomination, on the other hand, would inevitably precipitate a quarrel. As matters now stand a disagreement is possible at any rate. If it comes it will be anomalous in the history of American politics, for the better sense of the country will be with the President as against the general policy of his party, but against him on the immediate point of difference with the Senate. General Grant occupies the vantage ground both in his reply to Governor Davis and in his declarations to the Congressmen last Friday, and no pretext that can be invented will deprive him of it.

Since the war repeated attempts have been made to build up a party in opposition to the republican organization, but always without success. The reason of the failure is plain—the dead weight of democratic tradition was carried into every contest. The dead weights of the republican party must, inevitably, become as fatal. Nearly fifteen years of uninterrupted success and power have left it many legacies of evil fortune, and of these none was more disastrous in itself or will prove more disastrous to the party than the reconstruction policy of Congress. Even after reconstruction was accomplished and the States restored to their original rights under the constitution Congress persisted in recognizing usurpations of authority as the governing power in a number of the Gulf States. Of this Louisiana is the most flagrant example. It is no wonder that the President's experience with Governor Kellogg has had the effect to sicken him and to induce him to deny the demands of Governor Davis, and give notice in advance that Mississippi need not expect any interference from him. It is a new departure, in every way worthy of the great soldier by whom it is made. It is Jacksonian in its scope, and will be Jacksonian in its influence upon political thought. The first attempt at nullification and secession was destroyed by Jackson's "By the Eternal, the Union must and shall be preserved!" The injustice which followed the failure of the second attempt in tying the States to the wheels of arbitrary and usurped authority will find its deathblow in Grant's "I am tired of this nonsense." And in other respects talents as strong as Jackson's will be required in Grant. The inflationists are determined to set aside the policy suggested in the President's Message and, if possible, to issue more paper money. Here is a battle for Grant, and it is to be hoped he will fight the new national banks with as much vigor as Jackson fought the old United States Bank nearly half a century ago. The people, as well as the President, are tired of the criminal nonsense which has been so long promoted by the republican majority. All respectable men, not blinded by partisanship, feel, with the President, that the reconstruction policy of Congress has been a nursing of monstrosities; at least a minority of the majority in Congress is willing to acknowledge it. Many excellent republicans are rejoiced at the signs of a rupture between the President and the Senate, in the hope that it may lead to the purification of politics. It is not easy to break up a powerful political organization, honored as the republican party has been honored; but these men hope that it may at least be purified. If disintegration should be the result it would be all the better for the country. Parties are not worthy of being preserved at the expense of the rights of the States and of the people; but whatever may be the result in the conflict that now seems to be impending the President is right in the stand he has taken, and if he maintains it he will be supported by the people and add a crowning glory to his triumphs in the field by his triumph in civil administration.

The Siamese Twins.

If the composite Chang and Eng have been buried without a post-mortem examination it is to be regretted from various points of view. Physiological inquiry loses the solution of a problem that was, however, less important than queer, and general rational curiosity is left with a puzzle on its hands forever. Unless laws and usages at Mount Airey, N. C., are different from what they are in this part of the world, the burial without an autopsy was clearly illegal. Here, unless a physician can certify to the cause of death, the coroner must come in; and this seems so necessary a provision for the safety of life in civilized communities that we can scarcely believe the Old North State to be quite without it. But how could any physician certify to the cause of Eng's death? In the state of knowledge with regard to the physiological relations of the pair any medical opinion on the subject must have been a vague guess rather than a judgment on facts. Chang had been treated for some paralytic trouble, and no doubt a diagnosis more or less clear had been made out in his case, and as the death was probably a consequence of the facts then ascertained the cause of his death could be known; but to say that Eng died of Chang's paralysis would be a flight of fancy, all the less excusable as a very little dissection would have demonstrated whether or no there was any nervous or arterial communication between the two. Perhaps the fact of the death of the second following so closely upon the death of the first is worth something as an evidence that there was between them a necessary relation of some great vital function; but the story as told seems to account otherwise for the fate of the second defunct. It looks as if Eng was frightened to death. Death from fright is of well known occurrence, and in no case could it be more likely than in this; for these two ignorant persons of feeble intellect had always believed that their lives were indissolubly associated, and neither could have readily comprehended that the death of one might occur without the death of the other. It is to be regretted that their lives were passed far away from good medical thinking or surgical skill; for if immediately upon the demise of Chang an operation had been performed to free Eng from his enforced association with the corpse and from the horrible idea that he was part of it, and he had then been properly encouraged by minds more robust than his own, he might still have been alive, and the operation would have determined the nature of their physical relations. Only one condition could have made it impossible for Eng to survive, and that condition was proved not to exist by his surviving two hours. If there was only one heart between them—that is to say if the heart that each had was incomplete and was supplemented in the performance of its function by the incomplete heart of the other—then the division would necessarily have been fatal, and no other necessarily fatal condition seems likely to have been present; but if the supposed condition had existed the time between the two deaths could never have gone into hours. It appears highly probable, therefore, that Eng's death was simply due to fright and to living in a remote part of North Carolina.

The Battle of the Resumptionists and Inflationists.

Day after day the debate continues in the Senate on the resolution reported by the Committee on Finance, which declares it to be the duty of Congress to adopt measures to redeem the legal tenders and to furnish a currency of uniform value, always redeemable in gold or its equivalent. In the House of Representatives also there is constant skirmishing on the financial and currency questions, and almost numberless resolutions submitted with regard to them. There has hardly ever been a greater diversity of opinion in Congress on any subject. Almost every member has a theory or scheme of his own. Yet there is a broad and well defined line on each side of which parties are arranged. One is for forcing a resumption of specie payments by any and all possible means, and the other, indifferent to that, or believing it not practicable under existing circumstances, proposes to adjust the currency to what are believed to be the exigencies of the country.

The division to a great extent is sectional, the members from the West and the South being opposed to a contraction of the currency in order to force specie payments, and, in fact, are generally in favor of increasing the currency, while those from the East and North, for the most part, either urge contraction or some other measure for placing the country on a specie basis. There are, however, exceptions. Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, for example, is a hard money man, and is, perhaps, the ablest opponent of the inflationists. In the debate yesterday a Southern Senator, too—Mr. Merrimon, of North Carolina—argued that it was idle and criminal for Congress to undertake to bring greenbacks up to the standard of gold, and that we must put ourselves on a level with the commercial nations of the earth, and to do this we must have a gold and silver currency. He advocated an immediate resumption of specie payments. But Mr. Gordon, of Georgia, who made an able speech on Tuesday on the other side, and Mr. Brownlow, of Tennessee, the same day, are, no doubt, better representatives of the South on this question. Then there are some members from the East and North against the resumptionists and in favor of a moderate expansion of the currency.

If we may judge from present indications there will certainly not be any contraction of the currency. Indeed, it is probable there will be an expansion to the extent, at least, of the legal tender reserve. The government, from necessity, has already circulated the greater part of that. The report comes from Washington that the Committee of Ways and Means has agreed to report a bill authorizing the issue of the whole forty-four millions, and thus making the volume of legal tenders afloat four hundred millions. Supposing this to be the case and that Congress will pass the bill, it will remain to be seen if the Western and Southern members can be satisfied with such a limited expansion. The whole question is involved in much difficulty. We have opposed the issue of more currency to relieve the Treasury, just as we have an increase of taxation, and have demanded retrenchment to the full extent of meeting the present income of the government. If the country is to get back to specie payments expansion of the currency, from whatever motive, would certainly place a barrier in the way. It would be an indefinite postponement of specie payments. Contraction should be avoided on one hand, for that would disturb values and paralyze business, and expansion on the other, because that takes away the prospect of returning to a specie basis. Let the volume of currency remain as it is and the country would grow up—through the increase of population, wealth and trade—to a specie standard. Admitting that the West and South have not currency enough, and the South, perhaps, is worst off in that respect, a remedy might be found in a more equal distribution of the currency. The East and North have the largest and an unequal share in proportion to population and other conditions. The national bank system is the greatest obstacle to a redistribution; for those who have the privileges and profits conferred by that system would be most unwilling to give them up. If we had a uniform legal tender currency, and no other, and that limited beyond any chance of expansion, all parts of the country would share alike in it and we should approximate to specie payments gradually and as insensibly as the dew falls on the ground. The growth of the country and business would accomplish that, and no shock either of contraction or inflation would be experienced.

A Chief Justice at Last—Morrison R. Waite Confirmed.

The President, with his third nomination for the office, has carried his Chief Justice through the Senate with flying colors, in the confirmation of Morrison R. Waite by that body. Had the nomination for this, "the highest judicial office in the government," been left to a republican or a democratic caucus of the Senate Mr. Waite would not have been chosen. There has been nothing in his record as a partisan, nor in his comparatively quiet professional career, calculated to attract the attention of the lawyers or the politicians on either side of the Senate. They would have preferred, and doubtless expected, after the failure of Cushing, a Chief Justice from their own ranks, and if the name had been sent in of Conkling, Edmunds, Morton or Frelinghuysen there would have been, as in the case of Chase, a confirmation without a reference.

Judge Waite was chosen by the President, as Williams was and as Cushing was, without seeking in advance the "advice" of the Senate. In other words, General Grant, in this unopposed confirmation of his third nominee for Chief Justice, is still recognized by the Senate as master of the political field. The new Chief Justice may not possess the conspicuous party recommendations of Attorney General Williams, nor the comprehensive legal attainments and experience of Mr. Cushing; but it seems to be understood that as a politician he is sound upon the record of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the constitution; that as a lawyer his qualifications, from his education and his successful practice of many years, are satisfactory, while, in view of his high character as a citizen, he is eminently acceptable to all parties. If we have in Judge Waite a Chief Justice who enters upon the duties of this great office comparatively unknown, he is still known sufficiently to justify the general impression that he will meet his high responsibilities to the satisfaction of the country. He has achieved success in life; let him now deserve it.

Professor Proctor's Lectures—Popularizing Astronomy.

The delicate and difficult work of popularizing the science of the stars has never received so great an impulse as from the present lectures of the British astronomer in our midst. It is an exclamation of Carlyle's, "Why did not somebody teach me the constellations and make me at home in the starry heavens, which I don't half know to this day?" But the pathetic lament of a grave defect in his education could not have escaped the great literary critic had he sat under Mr. Proctor's teaching. There is, perhaps, no greater need nor one more felt in science than to have its simple processes of research and its beautiful results laid bare to the world. One might suppose that next to the joy of discovery would be that of making known the secrets of nature and putting the solid knowledge of her mysterious machinery within the power of many minds. Last year the American public were honored with the lectures of Professor Tyndall, who gave them, in the lecture room, the very steps of investigation which had led him to some of the greatest scientific discoveries. Cicero's oft-quoted words, "He that knows how to find knowledge is next to him who possesses it," may well illustrate the value of such lecturers. Their permanent value is not only in imparting the results of research, but in teaching our young men and women to think and investigate for themselves. The office of the scientific lecturer and teacher is not to lord it over his hearers by the overshadowing prestige of his own learning and genius, but to lead the hearer, by experiment and successive reasoning, to make the discovery for himself, as if no one had ever before made it. This Professor Tyndall has done and we are glad to say Professor Proctor is doing, and we may anticipate great good to the general cause of science from their popularizations.

The special field of discussion taken up by Mr. Proctor is one that has occupied the human mind, some think unduly, but certainly as much as any other branch of science, from the early days of Greek and Phœnician navigation, when "on the sea the wakeful sailor to Orion's star and Helice turned heedful." The task Mr. Proctor has ventured to take up is one of the most excessively delicate and difficult that he could have selected. It is comparatively easy for astronomers to teach each other; but to bring the celestial mechanism within the mind's eye of a popular audience, and necessarily with but little aid of apparatus, must tax the richest intellect and most fertile imagination. But the lecturer may take heart, for he will find, as Professor Tyndall found, that his audiences will gladly follow him, whatever demand he may have to make on their patience and toil. There are many intensely interesting phases in this work of popularizing the work of the observatory and the laboratory, some of which we shall shortly notice.

SNATCHING A FEARFUL JOY.—Miss Dyas, the actress, had her pocketbook snatched from her in the street by a young man, who is a student of constitutional law, and who had just made an appointment to meet his brother at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association—an appointment probably made in the consciousness that he needed a moral example. He had previously called at a doctor's office and stolen a case of instruments—a piece of horrible but common depravity. He had endeavored to conspire with a bank messenger to rob the said messenger in the street, and he had stolen an overcoat and had escaped from Blackwell's Island by swimming to Hunter's Point. He is now sentenced to State Prison for five years, and will have ample time to reflect on the great mistake he made in the selection of his last victim.

LIBRARY TO BE OPENED ON SUNDAY.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 21, 1874.

At the annual meeting of the Franklin Institute, held to-day, it was decided by a vote that the library hereafter shall be open on Sunday.